



Your INL Update — Week of Jan. 31, 2011

This is Misty Benjamin with your INL Update.

Idaho National Laboratory inventors – 160 to be exact – were recognized at INL's 15th Annual Honors Banquet Friday. More than 50 patents were issued to INL researchers last year for inventions that addressed environmental challenges, energy technology, national security, nuclear energy and nanomaterials.

Gov. Butch Otter and Congressman Mike Simpson will be in eastern Idaho this week to break ground on INL's new Energy Systems Laboratory. The building will support an advanced battery testing lab, a biomass processing demonstration, a hybrid energy pilot project and office space. Construction will begin next month and should be completed in 2012.

The next step in Mars research may be a leap — researchers and students at the Center for Space Nuclear Research at INL are designing a nuclear-powered Mars hopper. The hopper could examine one Martian site, jump to another, and repeat, hundreds of times, mapping the entire Martian surface in a few years. You can read more in a new feature on INL's home page.

This was your INL Update. You'll find more information at inl.gov, including community announcements and the latest INL news.